standards. During the current year following six circuits have been identified for development in consultation with the State Governments:

(i) Eastern Region-(Buddhist Circuit): Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda-Varanasi.

(ii) Northern Region-(Himalayan Circuit)

Route I-Chandigarh-Bilaspur-Kullu-Manali-Rohtang La-Keylong-Sarchu-Upshi-Leh.

Route II-Shimla-Sangla-Kaza-Chatru-Keylong-Sarchu-Yashi-Leh.

(iii) Central Circuit-(Heritage, Nature and Wildlife Circuit): Gwalior-Shivpuri-Chanderi-Orcha-Khajuraho-Jhansi-Bhopal-Sanchi and surrounding Buddhist areas-Bhimbetka-Pachmarhi-Kanha Jabalpur (Bhedaghat).

(iv) Western Circuit-(Konkan Riviera Circuit): Bombay-Alibagh (Mandva)-Muradjanjira-Ganapatipule-Vijaydurg-Mithibad-Kunkeshwar-Mochetmad-Sindhudurg-Tarkarli-Shiroda-Savantwadi-Amboli-Goa-Coastal Karnataka-Bekal.

(v) Southern Circuit-(Backwater and Beach Circuit): Cochin-Kumarakom-(Backwaters)-Kottayam-Quilon-Trivandrum (Kovalam).

(vi) North-East Circuit-(Eco-Tourism Circuit): Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

Encroachment near Birla Mandir, New Delhi

†2800. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that due to illegal encroachments, open toilets etc. between the Birla Mandir, New Delhi and Udyan Marg the tourists have to face a lot of problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by his Ministry to tackle the said situation and to provide clean and good environment to the tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) the area around Mandir Marg and Udyan Marg does not have any unauthorized encroachment. Some Jhuggies

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of contracted labour had come up in between quarters but the same have already been removed. There is a 2 seater urinal-cum-toilet in the parking opposite Birla Mandir.

(c) New Delhi Municipal Corporation has a plan for redevelopment of the entire area and construction of public toilet on BOT basis on Mandir Marg for the convenience of the tourists.

Financial assistance to Assam for promotion and development of Tourism

2801. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plans submitted by the State Government of Assam to Government for its approval and assistance for development and promotion of tourism sector in Assam during the year 2002-2003; and

(b) if so, the present status of implementation of such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations. Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for identified tourism projects in consultation with the State/UTs concerned.

The following tourism circuit in the North East Region have been identified for integrated development in consultation with the States:—

Shillong-Guwahati-Kazirnaga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

HUDCO has prepared a project report for development of this circuit.

Besides, it is proposed to develop a major tourist destination each year in all the States/UT's during the Tenth Plan.

Private participation in Tourism Sector

2802. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector has shown interest in development of tourism in some States or region;